

AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE

Please change the title of the invention to Article of Footwear and Method of Manufacturing Same.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

a' [0002] The invention relates to an at least partially reinforced or impervious shoe adapted for walking or hiking. ~~outings~~. More particularly, the invention is directed to an article of footwear, such as an article of footwear and a method of manufacturing same.

a ✓ [0006] For hiking ~~outing~~ or walking shoes, it is also desired that the upper be reinforced against substantial abrasion effects which are caused, for example, by the presence of stones, rocks, etc. This is true even if the upper is made out of a thick and presumably resistant material such as leather, or reinforced textile known by the commercial name "Cordura."

a 3 [0009] Therefore, for this type of shoe ~~shoes~~ using mesh-type materials, one seeks to reinforce the strength and resistance to wear/abrasion.

a ✓ [0016] The shoe or article of footwear shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 ~~FIG. 1~~ is constituted, in a known manner, of an upper 1 and of an outer sole 2 assembled to the upper by cementing or molding. The illustrated embodiment includes a lacing 5 for tightening the upper upon the foot. Once the shoe is assembled, i.e., the sole 2 is fixed, by cementing or molding, on the upper 1, at least one layer 3 of polymer in liquid state is applied in predetermined areas of the upper. The assembly is then allowed to dry until curing of the polymer layer(s). This polymer is flexible or semi-rigid to adapt to the bending movements of the shoe during use. It is a polymer

in solution, i.e., diluted in a solvent such as water (for example, latex diluted in water) or in an organic solvent, for polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, silicone.

[0024] Thus, in the example shown in FIG. 1, the layer 3 rises toward the front of the shoe along a curved line 3a, and toward the rear of the shoe along a curved line 3b. In other words, according to the invention, the polymer layer 3 can be applied to have an upper edge that extends along a line varying in height along a length of the upper.

[0030] FIG. 3 shows another embodiment in which the polymer layer 3 is applied on a very ventilated or aeratable material of the upper 1, such as a mesh. A mesh is used to make ventilated ~~ventilated~~, very lightweight shoes; the disadvantage of this type of material, obtained by knitting, is that it is very fragile and sensitive to abrasion.

[0032] Preferably, the mesh used is a so-called three-dimensional ~~tri-dimensional~~ mesh, i.e., a material constituted, as shown in FIG. 4, of two parallel sides or layers ~~laps~~ 11, 12, of fabric connected together and kept at a distance from one another by a median layer of fibers 13 extending essentially perpendicular to the plane constituted by each of these sides and defining an elastically compressible air space between these two layers ~~sides~~ 11, 12. Such a three-dimensional ~~tri-dimensional~~ textile material is generally made during the same manufacturing step. It can also be constituted by means of two laps of fabric obtained separately, and connected subsequently by a ventilated layer along its thickness.

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A [0033] The two sides 11, 12 are preferably constituted by layers ~~laps~~ of meshed fabric or jersey; they can also be constituted by layers ~~laps~~ of woven or nonwoven fibers.

A [0034] In the case of a three-dimensional ~~tri-dimensional~~ meshed material 10, the polymer layer 3 is applied on the outer side 11 and therefore improves the wear resistance thereof, without hindering the passage of air A through the inner side 12 and the lap of fibers 13 (see arrows A).

A [0038] Depending on the more or less substantial penetration of the polymer inside the three-dimensional ~~tri-dimensional~~ material, this material will be more or less watertight.

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A [0040] Preferably, as in the ~~previous example of~~ embodiment of the invention described above, the polymer layer is applied so as to straddle the junction line 4 between the sole 2 and the upper 1.